State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Saturday,23ndofDecember 2023
The seventy-eighth Day of the Israeli aggression against Palestine

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine
From October 7 until December 23nd, 2023

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Friday evening, 22d of December 2023.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestineas a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to brutal war on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. A tangible advocacy for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.

Current Situation:

The Chief Economist of the World Food Programme (WFP) noted that the scale and speed of the unfolding acute food insecurity situation in Gaza, observed over just two months, are unprecedented in their severity.

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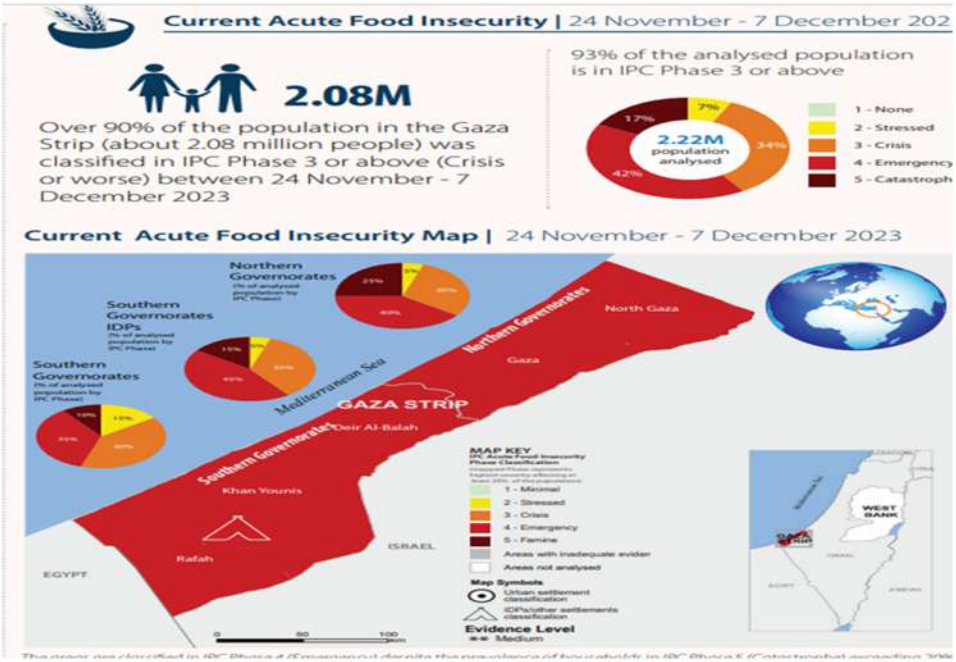

Almost The entire population in the Gaza Strip faces an imminent risk of famine, according to the latest estimates from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) global partnership on 21 December. The proportion of households affected by acute food insecurity is the largest ever recorded globally, according to IPC report.

The Famine Review Committee (FRC), activated due to evidence surpassing the acute food insecurity Phase 5 (Catastrophic threshold) in the Gaza Strip, warns that the risk of famine increases daily amid intense conflict and restricted humanitarian access. over 40 per cent of the population (939,000 people) were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and over 15 per cent (378,000 people) were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

The committee added that to eliminate the famine risk, it's imperative to halt the deterioration of health, nutrition, food security, and mortality through the restoration of health and WASH services. The cessation of war and the restoration of humanitarian space for delivering multisectoral assistance are vital first steps to eliminate any risk of famine.

On 22 December, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2722 on expanding the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale into Gaza. The UN Secretary-General emphasized that evaluating the effectiveness of the humanitarian aid operation in Gaza should not solely rely on the number of trucks entering the enclave. "The real problem is that the way Israel is conducting its offensive is creating massive obstacles to the distribution of humanitarian aid inside Gaza," he said. "An effective aid operation in Gaza requires security; staff who can work in safety; logistical capacity; and the resumption of commercial activity. These four elements do not exist," the Secretary-General concluded, urging Israel to take measures that would remove barriers in the way of aid distribution.

telecommunication blackouts continue to jeopardize life-saving assistance, hampering communication for humanitarian agencies and first responders.

Between October 7 and December 21, estimating about 20,000 Palestinian civilians in Gaza were martyred due to the Israeli occupation forces, including over 8,000 children and 6,200 women.Thousands are still missing and under the rubbles.

On 21 and 22 December, the vicinities of Al Amal and European hospitals, both located in Khan Younis in the south of Gaza and operational medical facilities were struck.

as of 22 December, nine out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional, all located in the south. These hospitals are operating at three times their capacity, while facing critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel, while some are hit. occupancy rates are now reaching 206 per cent in inpatient departments and 250 per cent in intensive care units.

On 21 December, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that northern Gaza had been left without a functional hospital due to the lack of fuel, staff, and medical supplies. Al Ahli Hospital is still treating patients but not admitting new ones, along with Shifa, Al Awda and Al Sahaba hospitals. These hospitals are not accessible, resupply is currently not possible, and continue to care for existing patients while also sheltering thousands of IDPs.

On 20 December, the Director General of WHO echoed a concern for the rises in infectious disease stating that "Gaza is already experiencing soaring rates of infectious disease outbreaks. Diarrhoea cases among children aged under 5 are 25 times what they were before the conflict. Such illnesses can be lethal for malnourished children, more so in the absence of functioning health services."

According to UNICEF statistics, at least 1,000 children have had their limbs amputated without anesthesia up to this date.

Population and Displacement:

On 22 December, the Israeli military designated a new area covering about 15 per cent (approximately nine square kilometres) of the Middle Area governorate for evacuation. Prior to the onset of this brutal war, this area was home to nearly 90,000 people. The area also includes six shelters that accommodated about 61,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), the vast majority of whom were previously displaced from the north.

according to UNRWA, more than 1.9 million people in Gaza, or nearly 90 % of the population, were estimated to be forcibly displaced. Nearly 1.2 million of these FDPs were registered in 154 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south.

On average, UNRWA shelters in the middle and southern areas are currently hosting nine times the planned number of FDPs.

Obtaining an accurate count is challenging, given difficulties including in tracking FDPs staying with host familiesSince 7 October, at least 288 FDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been martyred, and 998 injured.

Tens of thousands of FDPs in Rafah continue to face extremely overcrowded conditions, with a fourfold increase in population density.

Public Health catastrophe:

The entire population in the Gaza Strip is at an imminent risk of famine, reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on December 21, due to the conflict's impact and restricted humanitarian access, resulting in catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity.

On December 20, UNICEF reported that children in Gaza can access only 10% of their normal water use, increasing the risk of dehydration, diarrhea, disease, and malnutrition. Waterborne diseases like cholera and chronic diarrhea pose elevated threats due to the lack of safe water, worsened by seasonal rains and flooding.

Soaring rates of infectious disease outbreaks are noted in Gaza, with diarrhea cases among children under 5 increasing 25 times since the conflict began, according to the Director General of WHO. This poses a severe threat, particularly in the absence of functioning health services.

Gaza is facing a critical stock-out of vaccinations, leading to catastrophic health repercussions. More than 360,000 cases of infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, meningitis, jaundice, impetigo, and chickenpox, have been recorded in UNRWA shelters.

The food security situation worsens in the south, with 44% of households reporting very severe hunger.

Lack of formula for babies and poor sanitary conditions at UNRWA shelters contribute to the public health crisis.

Decomposing remains of Gaza civilians pose a significant risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.

Sewage flowing in the streets, stopped pumping stations, and non-functional water wells contribute to unsanitary conditions, raising the risk of infectious diseases.

Immediate and critical need for blankets, warm clothing, and adequate shelters with the onset of winter, as forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) face floods with ill-prepared makeshift shelters.

Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems, face challenging shelter conditions.

Destroyed Buildings:

Exact numbers of destroyed buildings are unavailable due to continued bombings.

Latest updates indicate over 60% of housing units destroyed, exacerbating health vulnerabilities.

A total of 342 school buildings have sustained damage (about 70 per cent of all school buildings in Gaza).

Seventy of the schools damaged are UNRWA schools, with at least 56 serving as shelters for IDPs.

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

Since October 7, 301 Palestinians have been martyred in the West Bank, including 76 children. The year 2023 is the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2005.

Increasing attacks on hospitals, health centers, and ambulances increase in the West Bank, limiting access to basic healthcare services.

Settler attacks continue, with 344 incidents recorded since 7 October.

At least 189 Palestinian households comprising 1,257 people have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

Urgent Needs:

Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.

Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.

Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.

Halt forcible displacement of civilians.

Urgent support for search and rescue operations.